

“Today the U.S. House of Representatives missed an important opportunity to seriously reform the Farm Bill. Had we adopted the “Fairness in Farm and Food Policy Amendment,” which would have limited subsidies, supported smaller farmers and ranchers, and helped hungry people and the environment, my vote would have been different. It also would have provided Oregon with more than \$133 million more than we would otherwise receive.

“This legislative process was not, however, a total loss. By having a healthy debate on the Farm Bill we made some real accomplishments. Our bipartisan reform coalition – which included Reps. Kind, Flake, Ryan and others – was able to push the Agriculture Committee to invest more in conservation and nutrition and cut back, even if modestly, on subsidies to the wealthiest farmers.

“I also achieved some important gains for Oregon through initiatives I introduced earlier this year in my ‘Local Food and Farm Support Act.’ The Farm Bill will now fund programs that connect local farmers to the schools, consumers, and underserved communities that can benefit from their products.

“I am proud not only of these changes but of the work I did with my colleagues to shape the debate and, ultimately, the final bill. Though the reforms were not enough to merit my vote, there will be an opportunity as it moves to the Senate to include stronger reforms. I will continue to work with the Senate and the administration to find opportunities to enact stronger reforms and promote effective farm and food policies.”

**The 2007 Farm Bill includes a number of provisions championed by Congressman Blumenauer in H.R.2265, the “Local Food and Farm Support Act,” including:**

- Funding the **Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant** program at \$30 million a year in mandatory funding with 10% set-asides for and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and for mid-tier value chains, which are strategic alliances between small to mid-sized farms and ranches and other supply chain partners that distribute the benefits of these partnerships across the supply chain.
- Establishing the **Healthy Food Enterprise Development Program** to provide grants, loans and loan guarantees for infrastructure to connect local agricultural producers to processors and underserved communities.

- Funding the **Farmers' Marketing Promotion Program** at up to \$10 million a year in mandatory funding, including for the use of Food Stamp EBT systems.
- Funding the **Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition** program at up to \$75 million a year in mandatory funding.
- Strengthening and expanding the **Community Food Project** competitive grants, which provides grants to community-based organizations to design and implement innovative, sustainable approaches to fighting hunger.
- Allowing a **preference for locally produced foods** for schools and other government-supported institutions.

In addition, the Farm Bill provides \$1.6 billion in **funding for specialty crops** called for in H.R.1600, the "EAT Healthy America Act," of which Congressman Blumenauer was an original cosponsor, including priorities for Oregon's nursery industry such as **funding to address plant pest and disease issues**

, establishment of a

**National Clean Plant Network**

, and reforms to the

**Tree Assistance Program**

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On the floor, Congressman Blumenauer successfully fought for an amendment that incorporates a key provision from H.R.2913, the "Pollinator Habitat Protection Act," which places a **greater emphasis in conservation programs on habitat and other pollinator-beneficial best management practices** to protect and enhance native

and managed pollinators. He was also able to include a

**prohibition on funds to promote the sale of tobacco abroad**

in the Manager's Amendment. While his amendment on

**transferable development rights**

was withdrawn, the Chairman of the Committee pledged to work with him as the bill moves through the process to ensure that conservation easements pursuant to transferable development rights programs are eligible for funding under the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program

Congressman Blumenauer is a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Budget Committee and Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.